

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Page 1, after the title, first line, please delete and insert the following:

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION.**

Page 3, between the first and second paragraphs insert the following:

**SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION.**

second paragraph, please amend as follows:

It is the object of the present invention to provide a discharge tube which, when in operation, develops a small amount of noise only, ensures an even discharge and whose components ~~re~~are easy to fit or remove.

Please amend paragraphs 4-10, as follows:

- an insulator tube ~~having~~with an inner face and an outer face,
- an inner electrode which ~~consists of a flexible laminar material and which is in~~  
contact with the inner face,
- an outer electrode which is in contact with the outer face,
- a ~~spring~~contact element ~~having at least one piece of metal wire which, at least~~  
along the greatest part of the length of the ~~inner~~outer electrode, is in electrical contact therewith  
~~and loads same towards the inner face.~~

Page 3, beginning the last paragraph that bridges to top of page 4, insert the following new paragraphs:

In a preferred embodiment, the contact element is in electrical contact with the outer electrode along the entire length of same.

The contact element can be connected to the outer element in a material-locking way, i.e. it can be soldered to the outer electrode.

Alternatively, the outer electrode can be arranged at a radial distance from the insulator tube and form guiding means in which the contact element is received. The guiding means can be provided in the form of a channel and the contact element can be provided in the form of a piece of wire, with the contact element being slid into the guiding means. The outer electrode can be produced in the form of a radially expandable woven wire fabric or braided wire fabric in the shape of a hose, with these being connected, e.g. soldered to one another along a connecting line in the longitudinal direction of the outer electrode, so that there is formed a first hose portion which accommodates the insulator tube and a second hose portion which extends parallel to the first hose portion and accommodates the contact element.

The inner electrode is preferably produced from a flexible laminar material. The material can be a woven wire fabric comprising a fine to finest mesh width, or a grid. However, the element can also be produced from a thin plate material or foil and comprise apertures like a punched plate.

Furthermore, it is possible to provide a spring element with at least one metal wire which contacts at least part of the length of the inner electrode and loads same against the inner face.

Page 5, paragraphs 3-10, delete in their entirety.

Page 6, first full paragraph, delete in its entirety.

Last paragraph, please amend as follows:

Furthermore, the insulator tube, at a second longitudinal end, comprises an aperture through which the inner electrode and the spring element can be slid into the insulator tube.

Page 7, between the first and second paragraphs, please add the following:

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

Page 8, prior to the first paragraph, please insert as follows:

**DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION**

First paragraph, please amend as follows:

Figures 1 to 4 show various illustrations of a first embodiment of a discharge tube which is not in accordance with the invention. For the sake of clarity, the discharge tube and its components are not shown true to scale. Figures 1 to 4 will be described jointly below.

Pages 12 and 13, please delete in their entirety.